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JAMES GORDON BENNETT,
PROPRIETOR.

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VOLUME XLIII.....NO. 68

AMUSEMENTS TO-NIGHT.

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UNION SQUARE THEATRE.—A Celebrated Case.
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GILMORE'S GARDEN.—ATHLETIC PRIZE.

TRIPLE SHEET.

NEW YORK, THURSDAY, MARCH 7, 1878.

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS.—To insure the proper classification of advertisements it is absolutely necessary that they be handed in before eight o'clock every evening.

The probabilities are that the weather in New York and its vicinity to-day will be warm and cloudy, probably with light rain. To-morrow cloudiness will continue, with light rain, and be followed by gradually clearing and cooler weather.

WALL STREET YESTERDAY.—The stock market was active and very strong. Gold opened and closed at 101 1/4, with a few sales during the day at 101 1/2. Government bonds were higher, States and railroads strong. Money on call was easy at 4 1/2 per cent.

THE SURRENDERS in Cuba still continue, but the war in this country is as vigorous as ever.

THE ALBEMARLE LAW COMMITTEE will hear both sides of the steam freight question Saturday.

NEW JERSEY has unpatriotically imported a pack of foreign beagles to hunt her free born American hares.

THE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE yesterday made several important changes in the wool section of the tariff bill.

MR. SHERMAN opens the silver ball this morning with the announcement that he is ready to buy all the bullion that is offered.

IT WAS DECIDED by one of our judges yesterday that a foreign city has the legal capacity to receive a legacy if it is so fortunate as to get one.

THE QUEENS COUNTY HUNT had a splendid run yesterday from New Cassel Wood to a point south of Huntington, a distance of about fourteen miles.

AN EDUCATION in oleomargarine is expensive. A dealer who was ignorant on the subject paid fifty dollars in one of the courts yesterday for the first lesson.

THE MILKMAN has resolved to send a committee to Albany to agitate the freight question. If they are wise they will take something besides milk and water with them in their cans.

THE HELL QUESTION turned up in one of the courts yesterday, and the lawyer who was so anxious to be enlightened on the subject lost his case. His clients will probably let him know all about it.

VIRGINIA declines to accept the great telescope that has been offered her because of her present inability to erect an observatory. But she is unselfishly willing to pay storage on it until she is ready to build.

GENERAL MOTT, of the Trenton State Prison, calls his treatment of the prisoners "discipline," and not "torture." If killing a man on a stretcher is only discipline it would be interesting to know what he considers torture.

OUR YACHTSMEN are beginning to prepare for the summer work. The proposition to hold a regatta in the bay for open boats, in which all the city clubs can participate, is an excellent one, and it is to be hoped will be carried out.

THREE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS disappeared in the Hot Springs fire. The enterprising citizens of that place are, however, anxious to have it understood that the springs are all right and that the hotels and boarding houses are still numerous.

ASSIMILYMAN FISH is altogether too curious. This, at least, is the opinion of the Mayor and Mr. Kelly and Mr. Roberts, whose opinions he has requested in regard to the reduction of the salaries of the teachers, the policemen and the firemen.

ANOTHER INSTANCE of philanthropy run mad is shown by the organization of a society to redress the wrongs of the red Indian. No one thinks of starting a society to redress the wrongs of the white men who are murdered or of the other white men who are robbed by pay for Indian wars.

THE WEATHER.—The depression referred to in yesterday's HERALD is moving slowly over the northern lake region and Canada. It is attended by very little rainfall, except on its southern margin through the Upper Mississippi Valley. Light winds generally prevail, except in Western Dakota. The barometer is highest on the South Atlantic coast. The temperature remains generally high throughout the United States east of the Rocky Mountains. Light rains have fallen in the Southwest in advance of a depression moving from Western Texas. With the above exceptions generally fair weather has prevailed. The weather in New York and its vicinity to-day will be warm and cloudy, probably with light rain. To-morrow cloudiness will continue, with light rain, and be followed by gradually clearing and cooler weather.

Postal Savings Banks for the United States.

The passage yesterday by the Senate of the bill "to authorize a long bond for the investment of savings" is a matter of congratulation in only one respect. The issue of such bonds would be no adequate substitute for ordinary savings banks, but the passage of a bill authorizing such bonds is of considerable value as settling the constitutional question which underlies the establishment of postal savings banks. If the constitution permits the issue of bonds for that purpose it must authorize other and more efficient measures for protecting the savings of the industrial classes. The principle of the proposed bonds and the principle of postal savings banks are identical. There can be no well founded doubt as to the constitutionality of either or both. They alike rest upon the explicit provision which empowers Congress "to borrow money on the credit of the United States." The money deposited in postal savings banks would be a loan to the government—a loan on which it would promise to pay interest, and of which it would engage to repay the principal. Beyond its recognition of an important constitutional principle we set no value on the bill which passed the Senate yesterday. The privilege of buying four per cent bonds of small denominations brings no real relief to the laboring classes, who have suffered so severely from insolvent and rotten savings banks. The frugal wages-earning classes are in no condition to make permanent investments. They need to have their money where it will be safe, but also where they can always command it for unexpected occasions. Invested in government bonds it would indeed be safe, but they would lose command of it. If the ordinary savings banks were always solvent and always honest they would be perfectly suited to the wants of people of small means. It is only the enormous losses inflicted upon such people within the last two years by the collapse of rotten savings banks that imparts interest to the action of Congress on this subject. By passing a bill authorizing bonds of small denominations the Senate provides a plaster which does not cover the sore. What the people need is a substitute for the savings banks by which they have been so unrighteously swindled. They want a safe depository for their earnings combined with easy facilities for withdrawing and spending their money in accordance with ever-recurring needs. It is only rich people who can afford to lock up their money in permanent investments and live upon the interest. The poor need to keep both principal and interest within their control to meet the emergencies of their humble life. What they want is not a chance to invest in bonds, but some perfectly safe arrangement which will give them the advantages of an ordinary savings bank.

It seems amazing that the postal savings banks system has made such slow advances in recommending itself to favor in the United States, when in most other civilized countries it has been so readily adopted. To England belongs the credit of having been the pioneer in this great and beneficent improvement. It is not creditable to the United States that instead of being the first it is among the last of the great States of Christendom to recognize the value of postal savings banks. It appears from an elaborate article in the *British Quarterly Review* that the most important of the British colonies and most of the leading States of Europe have adopted the English system of postal savings banks. Why should the United States be so far behind? It has been the boast of this country that it is always in the van of progress; that, being fettered by no obsolete traditions, it takes the lead in improvements which benefit the democratic masses. Nothing could bring a more real advantage to the democratic masses than an opportunity to invest their savings where they would be absolutely secure, where they would receive a reasonable rate of interest and where the principal could be withdrawn at pleasure to meet the occasions of the depositors and save them from the tender mercies of extortioners. It is wonderful that the United States, claiming to be, *par excellence*, the nation of progress, should have lagged so far behind in the great and beneficent measure of postal savings banks. Postal savings banks have not only been adopted by all the leading English colonies—Canada, Australia, New Zealand—but by Belgium, by Austria, by the Netherlands, by Germany, Norway, Sweden, Brazil, Switzerland and even by far off Japan, where the post office savings banks system has been adopted, and where in Yedo alone eighteen post office banks were opened in May, 1875. The slowness of the United States may be explained by the confidence felt in its ordinary savings banks until within the last two years. But the recent widespread failures in these institutions makes the establishment of postal savings banks not merely a popular necessity but a burning question.

The present Congress has adopted, to some extent, the views of the HERALD on this important subject. We have lying before us not less than six printed bills which have been introduced in the Senate and the House providing for a safe investment of the savings of the people. Among the six is the bill which passed the Senate yesterday, which would be utterly worthless except for its bearing on the constitutional question. The Senate having conceded that it is within the competency of the government to provide for the investment of the savings of the poor, the only objection is removed to the establishment of postal savings banks. The five other pending bills are of more consequence. The most carefully drawn of them all is the House bill introduced by Mr. Waddell, of North Carolina, entitled "A bill to establish and maintain a national savings depository as a branch of the Post Office Department." This excellent bill was prepared by experts in the Post Office Department, and we trust that it, or something like it, may be passed one or two years hence. It

would be premature now because it provides a larger official machinery and a more minute supervision than will be necessary in the early stages of the experiment. During the first year of postal savings banks the deposits will be comparatively small, and no very elaborate or extensive official machinery will be necessary for taking care of them. As an entering wedge the bill introduced in the House by Mr. Phillips, which is an exact copy of that introduced in the Senate by Mr. Ingalls, might prove very useful. The system embodied in the Ingalls-Phillips bill would start the experiment favorably, and when the number of depositors should become so great as to require the establishment of a new and extensive bureau in Washington legislation could easily be procured for that purpose. The system would be certain to grow in popularity with the constantly increasing amount of deposits. There is no necessity for erecting an elaborate system for taking care of these deposits until their amount outgrows the machinery and facilities of the money order post offices. We should, therefore, prefer the passage by this Congress of one of the several simpler bills, like that of Mr. Phillips, to the premature erection of the elaborate administrative system prepared by the experts of the Post Office Department. The first important thing is to attract deposits in the money order post offices. When these become large in amount, as they would certainly become in a short time, it would then be in order for Congress to provide adequate machinery for administering the new system.

The International Congress.

Germany, Austria and Russia are agreed that a congress shall be held at Berlin, and that it shall assemble, it is said, about the 22d of this month. It appears to be understood that no Powers will be represented save those that signed the Treaty of Paris; but the congress will heed what may be said on behalf of the minor States. The treaty Powers were France, Austria, Italy, England, Prussia, Russia and Turkey. As Prince Gortschakoff will appear for Russia on this occasion, Prince Bismarck for Germany, and doubtless Count Andrasffy for Austria, the meeting of these three Chancellors in Berlin as a nucleus of a congress will appear suspiciously like their now famous conference in the same city two years ago, when they agreed upon that "memorandum" which would have made the recent war unnecessary and would have satisfied Russia with infinitely less reduction of the Sultan's sovereignty if England had not refused to sign it. That will not be a pleasant reminiscence for England, and perhaps for other reasons it may be deemed that this assembly in Berlin has a "cut and dried" aspect at which England can justly take exception. Apparently the Northern Powers are proceeding on their early opinion that the congress should be one of Foreign Ministers, though it has been announced in Parliament that such an arrangement is too inconvenient to be acted on by the British government. Thus there is some likelihood of a continuance of the unfortunate game of cross purposes which has resulted from England's refusal to recognize that in a party of five there is a majority. So far as there are any glimpses of what the congress will do it may be said that it is far less likely that it will seriously assault Russia's settlement with the Sultan than that it will continue the dismemberment of his dominions. It is said that Germany will propose the annexation of Bosnia and Herzegovina to Austria and will favor an English protectorate in Egypt, while Austria will propose the annexation to Greece of Thessaly and Epirus. If the congress is to settle the case of Greece it is to be regretted that it does not convene earlier, for now that the Turks have got the Russians off their hands they seem disposed to turn with some fury and with sufficient force on the Greek insurgents, and they will, apparently, pour out on these all the stored-up wrath that the Russian conquest has excited.

Teachers' Salaries and Incidentals.

The Board of Education met yesterday and resumed the work of decreasing the salaries of teachers and others for the current year. In 1877 the total appropriation received by the Board was \$3,553,000. This year the total appropriation is \$3,400,000, or \$153,000 less than last year. The Board has reduced the salaries considerably more than this difference in the two years' total appropriations. It has therefore on hand for the other expenses of the department a larger amount than it expended last year on items other than salaries. In other words, the Board has ground down the pay of the teachers until it has secured a larger amount for all other expenditures besides salaries than it used in 1877. Is its economy going to end with this raid on the salaries? Are all other items of expenditure to be similarly pared down, so that the taxpayers may have the benefit of the saving, or will the whole appropriation of \$3,400,000 be exhausted despite the economy exercised on the teachers?

An examination of last year's expenditures, other than for salaries, shows that the fuel for all the schools and the hall of the Board cost \$52,811. This sum, at the liberal estimate of \$3.50 per ton, delivered, would buy more than 15,000 tons of coal, or an average of 128 tons each for 125 buildings. With proper management the coal ought to have been delivered for less than \$3 a ton, and it is ridiculous to pretend that any such amount of fuel could have been consumed. It is evident that there must be a leakage in the coal bins and a very stalwart colored person in the woodpiles. For books, maps and stationery the enormous amount of \$155,221 is alleged to have been spent. As \$162,000 was expended in 1875 and about the same amount in 1876 there is evidently as good a disposition in the schools to destroy the books as to master their contents. In repairs of buildings, heating apparatus (which gets badly out of order every year) and furniture \$151,000 was swallowed up, and "incidentals" come in at the modest total of \$73,673—a tolerably large bite out of the appropriation, considering that all conceiv-

able expenditures are otherwise provided for. Have the salaries been pinched only for the sake of providing more money for these questionable items of expenditure? If so the pretended economy of the Board will be a cruel injustice to the teachers without yielding any saving to the city.

The Exorbitant Fisheries Award—An Interview with Ex-Secretary Fish.

The award made by the Fisheries Commission was so enormous that no surprise should be felt that President Hayes has not asked Congress to make an appropriation for paying it. The amount of the award is ten times the value of the privilege. Of course our government will never pay it. Senator Blaine's resolution asking for information respecting the appointment of Mr. Delfosse, the third commissioner, implies that the latter was an unfit person to serve on the commission, owing to his British bias. Mr. Delfosse had the casting vote in all decisions, and if the circumstances of his appointment made it impossible for him to be an impartial umpire that might, perhaps, justify our government in rejecting the award. But this is a minor circumstance. The solid reason for refusing to pay the award is its self-evident and monstrous injustice. It is so absurdly excessive and extravagant that had it been made by a commission of which all the members were appointed by our government it ought not to be accepted as binding. Mr. Fish, in the interview which we publish, makes a frank explanation of the circumstances attending Mr. Delfosse's appointment, but he has entire confidence in the uprightness of that gentleman's intentions. And yet Mr. Fish thinks the amount of the award so disproportioned to the value of the privilege that it strikes him with amazement. According to the best judgment he could form half a million dollars, or at most a million dollars, would have been an ample compensation. The prodigious sum of five millions would be simply extortionate if its payment could be enforced. But it cannot be enforced for the reason stated by Mr. Fish. There is no means of compelling a sovereign government to make payments of any kind. To be sure, its own sense of honor or its explicit engagements should bind a government; but no sense of honor compels any government to submit to a manifest extortion, and our government will violate no engagement by refusing to pay the unconscionable award of the Fisheries Commission. In the treaty of 1871 there is a marked difference between the stipulations relating to the Alabama Claims Commission and those relating to the Fisheries Commission. It is expressly agreed that the decision of a majority of the Alabama Claims Commission shall be binding on both governments, but there is no similar stipulation respecting the Fisheries Commission. It is not said that the decision of its majority shall be binding, and either government is therefore at liberty to reject the award if it thinks it unjust. During the administration of President Jackson the Northwestern boundary question was submitted to the arbitration of the King of the Netherlands; but our government refused, without dishonor, to abide by his award. Although ex-Secretary Fish does not explicitly say so, it is manifest from the interview that only a sense of decorum restrains him from declaring that our government ought not to pay the amazing and extortionate fisheries award.

The Papal Policy.

Contradictory reports from Rome as to the policy of the new Pope seem to be the order of the day, which is doubtless inevitable, since the persons whose guesses are the bases of the larger number of these despatches must differ as their natures are dissimilar. But little could possibly be known of the purposes of the Pope with regard to the important topics before him, for the same reason that the course to be pursued by any potentate is not laid bare in the first few days or weeks of his accession to power. Some inferences have been drawn from his acts or words, and those generally favor the opinion that the policy of the Vatican is distinctly not to be "irreconcilable," but, in the words of one of the despatches we print to-day, is to be "animated by the endeavor to reconcile as far as possible the interests of Church and State in difficulties pending with various governments." From the report of what the Pope said to fifty-four parish priests whom he received it may be judged negatively that he does not believe it is any part of the duty of such functionaries to preach politics or to propagate unfortunate relations with the government authorities. He recommended them to "preach Jesus Christ," as if one should say "Let us now have a little more Gospel and less syllabus." He urged them to "guard their flocks against the infidelity and immorality" of the time. These instructions are only what any pope might give in any circumstances, but, taken in connection with the omissions of this address as pointed out in the despatch, they seem significant of a purpose to give the broadest possible hint that the Pope believes the Church should now take very earnestly to saving men's souls and give up for a little the saving of the temporal power and the ecclesiastical dignity.

Night Trains on Rapid Transit Roads.

It is stated that the Assembly Railroad Committee have decided to report adversely a bill referred to them requiring the elevated railroad companies in this city to run trains every fifteen minutes during the night. Probably it would be excessive to compel the roads to run night trains at such short intervals, but they certainly ought to be bound by law to give necessary accommodation to people whose occupations require them to travel during the night time. It might be proper for the Assembly committee to modify the bill by providing for fifteen minute trains up to midnight and half-hourly trains between midnight and five o'clock in the morning. But it is neither expedient nor just to the people of New York that the rapid transit companies should be left at liberty to close their roads to the public at eleven or twelve o'clock if they should choose to do so, or, indeed,

at any hour of the day or night. The franchisees bestowed on the companies free of cost are valuable privileges which, if put up for sale at auction, would have realized quite a large amount to the public treasury. They are given away rather than sold, because it is desirable that the people should have the benefit of the lowest possible rates of fare and the best accommodations that can be afforded. These are the conditions on which the companies receive the gift, and they should not only be specifically defined by law, but their violation should be made a forfeiture of the charters.

It is impossible to understand what opposition or objection there can be to a distinct provision of law requiring the rapid transit roads to run their trains during the night. The officers and managers of the companies declare their intention to do so. If they are honest in this declaration—if they do not make a mental reservation that they will run night trains only if they can make enough profit out of them—then they certainly cannot object to the enactment of a law making what they are quite willing to concede an obligation on their part. Indeed, they ought to desire such a law, inasmuch as they may not always hold control of the management of the roads, and their simple promises cannot bind their successors. No doubt Mr. Cyrus W. Field and others are entirely sincere when they say, "Of course we shall run night trains." But the managers who come after them may entertain different views and may not hesitate to deprive the public of the accommodation. The rapid transit roads will supersede the horse cars, and if they should refuse to run night trains on the plea that they will not pay a very large portion of the people would be worse off with rapid transit than without it. But the case is a very simple one. The companies are ready to promise the accommodation of night trains to the people who have granted them their franchises. They ought to have no objection to a law which simply makes their solemn promise a legal obligation. The Legislature certainly cannot object to extending to the people the protection of so simple and so just a measure. The refusal or neglect to pass such a law will create the suspicion that the railroad companies are insincere and the Legislature dishonest.

Government Friction in Germany.

There are certain signs that the higher machinery of the German Empire is not working with that smoothness without which its force may be greatly weakened. It is not so much the question of radicalism or ultraradicalism as that of sectionalism which is producing the most unpleasant results. When Prussia, in 1866, asserted her tremendous superiority among the German States the way was paved to the new Empire. Sadowa sealed the fate of the small Powers of Germany. Prussia was a giant who might punish at will Bavaria, Saxony or Wurtemberg, or all together, as it punished Austria and swallowed Hanover. There might be, it then seemed, no special pleasure in taking the law from so iron-handed a master, but there was no safety in any other course. Napoleon's misreading of this great result of the Austro-Prussian war led in great part to his blunder in declaring war in 1870. He knew that the smaller States of the German Confederation did not love Prussia, but he did not apparently know how much they feared her. We shall not deny that the doctrine of *Toutenmacht* had much to do with eliciting popular fervor all over Germany on the side of Prussia then, as Pan-Slavism helped Russia in the late war; but the Bavarian, Saxon and Slesvick governments knew that Prussia after the war would be likely to treat them as she had the government of the old, blind King George four years before if they held aloof. So long as the first glitter of the great triumph remained which made Germany the commanding Power she it was not difficult to keep down all symptoms of discontent of whatever kind. Now however, when the more prosaic work of the government comes to be done, when modifications of the iron Chancellor's crude imperial machine have become necessary, the sectional interests begin to show their heads. It always results from one man in a government being so immensely superior in ability to those who work with him that the time for filling his place brings with it a host of intrigues and jealousies which often result in disaster. The death of Alexander shattered the chain that held his conquests together. Charlemagne's Empire did not survive him. If Napoleon Bonaparte had not been humiliated in his lifetime his death would have been the signal for all he had bound up to be loosed. Prince Bismarck is growing old, and he does not wish to leave the German Empire to the chance of circumstances. We may admit that his desire for a Vice Chancellor and an Imperial Cabinet shows that he is no longer physically able to do everything he used to do, and that, even if what he asks of the German Parliament were granted, he would expect his high styled assistants to be little better than dead clerks, but it shows further his deep seated anxiety to preserve intact the monumental labor of his extraordinary career. Bavaria and Wurtemberg raise their voices against the project because it tends to weaken the autonomy of the several States. Bismarck, however, is right. An iron empire cannot be hooped together with any weaker material. Until the whole system is changed Germans of the kingdoms as well as Germans of the duchies must submit to still further curtailment of local privileges if they would continue to be strong. The condition of Austria should be warning enough for them. A State to be of account in Europe to-day must be "one and indivisible."

Garfield on Kelley.

Mr. Garfield yesterday delivered, in the House of Representatives, a speech that was called "unconstitutional," because "it was an act of cruel and unusual punishment." The person punished was Mr. W. D. Kelley, one of the shallowest of the demagogues who howl for silver or paper as the cry goes at one time or another and who would as readily howl for a pewter or even a pig iron currency if by any vagary it should get into their heads that the people were in favor of that kind of money. Mr. Kelley had spoken on Tuesday in contradiction of a former good money speech of Mr. Garfield, and had assailed Mr. Garfield somewhat, and the speech of yesterday was a reply. It was caustic in its exposition of the mere demagoguery of Kelley himself, who was shown by the record to have favored contraction when that was a popular issue, in a vote in which he had the company of Mr. Voorhees, of Indiana, and to have been one of the advocates of the demonetization of silver.

PERSONAL INTELLIGENCE.

Dr. Brown-Sequard is in Boston. The silver beetle is on its rounds. Now it is called the forthcoming dollar. Was Mr. Hayes so when he was Governor? Gladstone has brown eyes and a sweet voice. Redpath proposes to take Laguerre to England this spring. Hon. E. C. Bailey will become editor of the Boston Globe to-day. Mrs. Kate Chase Sprague is said to be more beautiful than ever. A man named Ova has been arrested in Florida. He must be a bad egg. The Worcester Press wants Sitting Bull for a professor in Princeton College. Hon. E. Rootwood, of Massachusetts, is threatened with a pulmonary disease. Josh Billings is on a lecturing tour, and new people have a chance to hear Josh Billings. Rev. Dr. Skinner, of Cincinnati, likes to watch a game of billiards. Does it carom back to his youth? Mine Mudjeka is an intimate and life-long friend of Mme. Kaspoff, the pianist, whose mother was a Pole. Mrs. Jane Grey Swissham now says that Goldsmith's play of "She Stoops to Conquer" is immoral. The old rustic songs of the provinces of Italy have suddenly become popular among students of poetry in that country. The Cincinnati Commercial encourages Zach Chandler with the idea that the clouds have a copper lining. We hope the coppers are not hot. Some Russian peasants believe that when a fire is kindled by lightning nothing but milk will put it out. And yet they do not water their milk. A daughter of General Rosecrans has died at the Ursuline Convent, Ohio. Her uncle, Bishop Rosecrans, has left home to attend the funeral. A traveler who thought that all Russia was at zero writes that he was surprised upon reaching a Crimean village last summer to find a little boy running around unshod. It was only a little Russian boy. In London 300 children annually die by suffocation in bed, the main cause, according to Dr. Hardwicke, being the overkindness of parents, and the comestible classes often as many victims as the poor. Mr. John Hancock Dennis, editor of the Eureka (Nev.) Times-Review, and descendant of John Hancock, is said to have the cane which the great Revolutionary held in his left hand while he signed the Declaration. Mrs. T. Disney, of Cincinnati, Ohio, now at Austin, Texas, will give \$100 for the restoration of the "Twin Sisters," the brass bed pieces used by Houston at San Jacinto, to their place in the State House at Austin. Charleston (S. C.) Journals in their editorial articles are wise in paying great attention to home affairs, especially to sanitary and commercial improvements. This is higher journalism than bitter appeals to anti-war prejudices.

MUSICAL AND DRAMATIC NOTES.

Clara Kellogg is not engaged to Tom Karl. It is intimated that Mr. John McCullough will produce "The Exiles" in San Francisco. In 1872 there were thirty-two circus shows on the road. This year there are but thirteen. Young Liebenberg, the violinist, will return to his home in California in four or five weeks. Janussek has just closed an engagement at Hooley's Theatre, Chicago, that was not profitable. The second concert of the Vocal Society of New York will take place this evening at Chickering Hall. Old English and Irish songs and ballads are now the features of many of the concerts given in Great Britain. The musical services in many of the churches yesterday were of an unusually select and impressive character. Miss Georgiana Smithson, an English vocalist, with considerable London reputation, is announced to appear at Tony Pastor's. Genevieve Ward, the reigning London sensation, has been engaged by one of our enterprising managers for a New York season. It is stated that when the snow scene is set in the "Exiles" at the Broadway Theatre the temperature in the auditorium falls fully ten degrees. "Our Bachelors" crowded the Park Theatre last night until even standing room could hardly be secured. The play has proved one of the hits of the season. The Majerons, husband and wife, who are now in California, when not drawing crowded houses, are said to be among the best actors who have performed on the Pacific slope. Mapleton proposes to reopen the Haymarket Opera House during the present month for the regular Italian opera season with Sir Michael Costa as musical director and conductor. Judging from the number of "stars" who are going abroad in May and June our English cousins will have no reason to complain of dramatic attractions during the summer season. Owing to the illness of Mr. Charles Adams the performance of "Rienzi," which was announced to take place at the Academy of Music last evening, has been postponed until Friday evening. Von Bülow, in his programmes of the orchestral concerts, conducted by him, specifies the dates of the compositions that are executed, and of the births and deaths of the composers—an excellent idea. J. S. Clarke, who will play Toodles at the Fifth Avenue next week, has appeared in this part over two thousand times. The "Disappointment" will be presented here for the last time at the matinee on Saturday. On the 15th of this month the Italian opera season will begin at the Imperial Theatre, Vienna, at which the artists engaged are Mmes. Nilsson and Trebelli, Miles. Litta and Sola, Signora Campanini, Marini and Zuchini, M. Faure and Herr Behrens. The increasing popularity of the piano is attested by the unusual number of elementary works of instruction that have recently been published on both sides of the Atlantic. Almost every teacher of note has rushed into print with some special system of imparting tuition. Mr. Thomas Kinsella, President of the St. Patrick's Society of Brooklyn, who recently lectured in that city in aid of the John Brougham testimonial, has forwarded the net receipts from the lecture, amounting to \$425, to that gentleman. Mr. Brougham has acknowledged the receipt thereof and returned his thanks to Mr. Kinsella. McCullough, in a conversation with a Boston critic, claims that the measure of Shakespeare's lines frequently requires an unusual, not to say indefinite, pronunciation of certain words, as, for instance, "revenue," and "importance," yet that the great dramatist is uniform and consistent throughout in establishing this difference from modern usage. Among the most charming amateur entertainments on the Continent are those which are given by Lady Dufferin and the ladies and gentlemen connected with the official household of her husband, the Governor General of Canada. The stage in the Government House, although small, is perfect in its arrangements, and the costumes are more elegant than any worn under similar conditions in America. The audience is, of course, invited, appears in full dress and comprises the élite of the capital of the Dominion. During a recent performance in Chicago, when Mme. Rozz was personating the Princess Aida, the following pretty incident occurred:—When the applause was at its height a lovely little girl of but a few summers, her head cunningly framed in a little lace bonnet, was put forward on the balcony of a box in which her parents were, her chubby hands grasping a superb bouquet for the dusky Princess Aida. Rose took the flowers, and, moved to admiration by the beauty and tender youth of the giver, bent down and kissed her, and the little one, not at all abashed at the dark face, strange dress and glistening jewels of the prima donna, returned the kiss with perfect self-possession, and was taken back into the box, clapping her hands in childish glee.